

NEWS RELEASE

**Sawtooth National Forest
2647 Kimberly Road East
Twin Falls, ID 83301**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: AUGUST XX, 2007

1581-D4-157
CONTACT: **JIM RINEHOLT**, Forester
PHONE: **208-727-5021**

FOREST HEALTH PROTECTION COST SHARE GRANTS

The Idaho Department of Lands, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, has provided Forest Health Protection cost-share incentives for non-industrial family forest owners to help those who are experiencing tree mortality from bark beetles. Grant funds have been used to apply preventative sprays and pheromones to protect high value trees and to cut and remove beetle infested trees to prevent further tree loss and to suppress beetle populations. The Idaho Department of Lands would like to know the level of interest and need to continue to offer cost share incentives for 2008. Landowners who are experiencing problems with bark beetles and are interested in getting more information about this cost share grant program should contact: Jim Rineholt, Grant Coordinator, at the Sawtooth National Recreation Headquarters Office, located eight miles north of Ketchum. Rineholt's address is: Sawtooth National Recreation Area, 5 North Fork Canyon Road, Ketchum, ID 83340. He may also be reached by calling (208) 727-5021 or electronically at jrineholt@fs.fed.us

"This grant program has been extremely successful in providing financial as well as educational assistance," Rineholt said. "from 2004 thru 2007, 51 grants for a total of \$1,537,000 have been awarded to private landowners protecting over 3,966 acres." Since most of the western forests are stressed due to droughts and warmer temperatures, the forest health protection cost share grant program has been a successful tool that has educated private landowners on the value of proactive forest management to keep their forests healthy.